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'Room Froze As RFK Killer Revealed Pistol'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"He kind of motioned around him and stuck the gun straight out, and nobody could move. It was—you were frozen; you didn't know what to do. And then I saw the first powdering or plastering when he pulled the trigger, the first shot. Mr. Kennedy fell down."

In these words a young student and parttime waiter told a Los Angeles County Grand Jury of the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

A transcript of the proceedings last Friday, which resulted in a murder indictment against a 24-year-old Jordanian, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, was made public today when it was filed with the county clerk.

VINCENT THOMAS DI PIERRO testified that he was in the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel when Kennedy entered, en route from an election victory speech to the press room.

He said he saw the accused and a pretty girl standing on a tray-stacker, clutching a pipe with his left hand and with his right hand held to his stomach.

"I saw him get down off the tray stand. And when I

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went to turn, the next thing I saw was him holding the gun . . ."

THEN CAME THE FIRING.

"I heard five distinct shots . . . there could have been more."

"The next thing I know, I had blood all over my face and my glasses. And then the man (one of five others, beside Kennedy) that got shot in the head fell in my arms. And then the other boy that got shot in the thigh, he fell on top of me and they pushed me down. They fell on top of me."

Question: "Did you see what happened to the senator before you went down?"

Answer: "He was on his way, falling, he was falling down. The first shot, he kind of reared back, very, very sharply . . . Both hands went up like that. He was kind of on an odd angle. He was just about to shake hands."

How did the crowd react?

"Well, the suspect turned almost immediately and after all the shots were fired, he was trying to escape . . . and people were trying—were hitting him and cursing at him, and it was utter confusion. I mean everyone was trying to kill him."

Of the girl with the accused, Dr. Pierro added, ". . . he looked as though he either talked to her or flirted with her because she smiled. He said he did not see the girl after the shooting.

SHE WAS CLAD, HE SAID, in a polkadot dress. Police have been seeking a girl for questioning in the case.

Another of the 22 grand jury witnesses, Irwin Neal Stroll, 17, one of those wounded, gave this description of the shooting:

"All of a sudden the procession stopped and it was like firecrackers, just pop, pop, pop, all over the place, and smoke."

STROLL, TESTIFYING FROM a wheel chair, said he was put in charge of guarding the door from the Ambassador Hotel kitchen to a podium where Kennedy spoke shortly before he and five others were shot.

Stroll said as Kennedy passed him going from the podium to the kitchen en route to a press room, "I shook his hand and said, 'Congratulations, senator.' He said 'Thank you.' Then he went through the door and all of a sudden the procession stopped and it was like firecrackers, just pop, pop, pop, all over the place, and smoke.

"I PUSHED MRS. KENNEDY—just a reaction—everyone in the front turned around.

"I turned around and saw Mrs. Kennedy on the floor with Roosevelt Grier (football player and Kennedy aide) covering her. It was like a swarm of people pushing me out of the room.

"I went out of the podium door. I said, 'God, I'm shot,' and then my friends carried me off. I noted I was shot because of the blood; when the shooting started, it felt like a kick in the knee. . . .

"Right before going in, and Roosevelt Grier was behind her (Mrs. Kennedy) because I remember her face, she got crushed like, and she went like this . . . and they came down and said, 'Are you all right?'

"Roosevelt Grier pushed the people away from her."

"Then the procession went through — then we went through the door, Mrs. Kennedy and I and Roosevelt Grier, and then the procession stopped again, and then like firecrackers went off, like six."

Q. "At the time that you heard the six firecrackers, or whatever number—."

A. "Right."

Q. "How close to the senator were you?"

A. "I was—he was past me. The only—I was just—I was next to Mrs. Kennedy. I did not see the senator or anyone else."

Q. "Could you tell if he was 10 feet from you or 50?"

A. "About 10 feet."

Q. "Did you feel some type of blow or—."

Kinder La June 24, 1962. He

A. "Well, while this was going on, like someone kicked me in the shin."

Q. "Was that in the leg?"

A. "Right."

Police officer Travis R. White, picturing the shooting scene, said 75 to 100 people were in the kitchen area.

He was asked:

"Did it appear to you that the poeple were trying to get to him (Sirhan), perhaps to take some action against him?"

A. "Yes. All the time they were striking at him and trying to tear his clothing and everything."

Q. "These were not police officers that were doing that?"

A. "No, they were not."

Q. "And the police officers were trying to protect the individual, is that correct?"

A. "Yes."

Q. "Did he struggle with you as you handcuffed him or as you took him into custody?"

A. "No, he did not. . . ."

Witness Jesus Perez, a kitchen porter, asked if he saw the accused, said:

"Yes. He was talking to me about half an hour before the shooting. . . . He asked me about three or four times if Mr. Kennedy coming that way, coming through that way. And I answer, I don't know, because—really, I don't know way he come."

Sirhan, odd-job man who has lived in nearby Pasadena since immigrating as a boy, is scheduled to enter a plea June 28 to the murder count and five counts of assault with intent to commit murder. He is held in a maximum-security cell at Central Jail. Police have said he has made no statement about the case.

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